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**ARTFUL BRAINSTORMING:** (from left) Nicole Garcia, Rhodes Coffey, Caleb Brown, Kristi Day and faculty lecturer Matthew Wettergreen (center) brainstorm using note cards to solve an art-conservation problem.

## Rice Launches Scholarship Web Site for Local Students

For those college-bound students looking for financial help, the search just got easier.

As a service to the community, the Multicultural Community Relations (MCR) department in Rice University's Office of Public Affairs has created a Web site that contains a comprehensive list of scholarships available to local students.

The Web site, which is available through the MCR home page at [www.rice.edu/multicultural](http://www.rice.edu/multicultural), was launched in June and offers more than 40 links to a wide variety of scholarships. Featured organizations include the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the Houston Association of Black Journalists, the Hispanic Heritage Foundation and the Chinese Professional Club of Houston.

Prior to publishing the scholarship site, MCR solicited program recommendations from members of the

*Continued on Page 11 >>*

## Networks, Artwork and Rainfall: CCE Fellows Take on Civic Challenges

It's something many museum-goers never consider: Where does that multimillion dollar sculpture live when it's not standing in the exhibit hall? That's one of the questions Rice undergraduate researchers addressed this summer as part of Rice University's Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) Fellows program, which supports research and design projects that provide sustainable solutions to civic challenges.

Supervised by Rice faculty members and working in collaboration with community partners, nine undergraduates took on challenges that ranged from providing wireless mesh networks in under-resourced neighborhoods to researching the impact of inland rainfall and storm surges on coastal bayous.

"This collaborative approach allows students to take what they learn in the classroom and apply that knowl-

*Continued on Page 11 >>*

## New Spanish Resource Center at Rice Will Bolster Hispanic Studies Department and HISD Teacher Training

A new center housed at Rice University will enhance the teaching and study of Spanish language and culture and will provide support for teachers and students, both inside and outside the campus.

Rice President David Leebron signed an agreement with the Spanish Ministry of Education this summer to establish Rice's Spanish Resource Center (SRC), one of 13 centers hosted in collaboration with the Spanish government by universities across the U.S.

Rice's commitment to the SRC builds on goals laid out in the Vision for the Second Century, which challenges Rice to become a more international university, strengthen its relationships with Latin America, engage the city of Houston and support K-12 education.

Located on Rayzor Hall's third floor near the Department of Hispanic Studies, the SRC will feature a multimedia collection

with more than 2,500 books and 400 movies related to the teaching and study of Spanish language and culture. The center also will sponsor scholarly speakers and hold conferences on important issues within the Pan-Hispanic world, in addition to facilitating outreach and training by the Spanish government for Houston Independent School District language teachers, who can come to Rice for instruction on pedagogical issues.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Rice to increase Spanish language and cultural resources on campus and to make those resources available throughout Houston," said José Aranda, associate professor of English and chair of the Hispanic Studies department. "This is a way that Rice can make a connection



**THE LANGUAGE OF PROGRESS:** Diego Fernández Alberdi (left), counselor of education for the Embassy of Spain in Washington, D.C., and Rice University President David Leebron sign the agreement that establishes a new Spanish Resource Center at Rice.

with Spanish-speaking communities throughout the U.S."

—BY JESSICA STARK AND  
JENNIFER EVANS

Rice News Staff

## Engineering Students Help Bring Clean Water to Salvadoran Village

Rice seniors Maggie Murphy and Samantha Teltser were so driven to complete a water-distribution project in a small Salvadoran village that for two weeks this summer they woke up every day at 5 a.m., climbed a hill and installed a pipeline alongside a road until 7 p.m.

"Toward the end, we became workaholics," says Maggie Murphy. "We wanted to get as much done as possible." Adds Teltser, "We spent so many hours in planning the project that when we were in El Salvador we wanted to keep working all the time until it was finished."

Murphy and Teltser led a team of eight Rice students to El Salvador to do volunteer work for Engineers Without Borders, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to helping communities in developing countries fulfill basic needs through sustainable engineering projects.

Three other Rice teams also ventured to Central America in May: two groups went to

Nicaragua, one to work in Collado, a community that needs a school building, electricity and running water; and the other went to Pueblo Nuevo to work on a water-supply system. A third Rice team went to Honduras to launch an educational campaign and a water-sanitation project.

The project in El Salvador began in 2006 in El Pilar, where 300 people live in a hillside village. For the residents, getting water from a spring below is difficult and unsanitary. The Rice team decided to resolve this problem by constructing a system that brings water directly into the homes. This meant constructing two water-storage tanks, one next to the spring and another at the top of the hill, and then distributing the water through pipes into the homes. Next year, the Rice team plans to install a water purification system.

With the help of community members, the students mixed more than 30 batches of concrete by hand, using water they carried in jugs uphill from the spring. Then they poured the concrete into wooden curb molds they constructed.

When they were not installing the pipeline, the Rice students visited elementary

schools and performed humorous skits to inform children about the importance of clean water practice, and they conducted a hand-washing relay competition.

For Teltser, a mechanical engineering major, her third trip to El Salvador was especially enjoyable, she says, because she was able to strengthen the relationship she has built with the villagers. "At first you don't consider the human side of the project until you are working side by side with the community members and exchanging ideas about the project. And then you realize they're so intelligent and have so much ability."

For Murphy, a civil engineering major, this was her fourth time visiting El Pilar. "Every trip is a huge learning experience," she says. "You get a lot out of it. Just to be able to make a dent in global poverty, to help provide clean, accessible water to one village is very satisfying and humbling at the same time."

—DAVID D. MEDINA

Director

Multicultural Community Relations



## Iron Teachers Prove They Know How to Teach Students a Lesson

Paula Wheeler and Iris Muñoz may not be able to save a burning building from collapse with a toothpick and a stick of chewing gum, but these MacGyvers of the science classroom have proven their resourcefulness in other ways.

When the two elementary-school science teachers participated in the Rice University School Science and Technology (RSST) program's Iron Teacher competition in May, they used creativity, cat toys and a "secret ingredient" provided by RSST to develop a science

unlikely objects — such as the group that used baby bottles to explain the properties of matter and the team that used paper towel holders to teach the concept of change over time.

As the teams worked, a "studio audience" of colleagues, friends and family members



**CREATIVE SOLUTION:** Teachers examine a "mystery object" as they explore properties of matter.

lesson on a randomly chosen state-mandated science concept within a 45-minute time allotment. Judges liked what the duo had to teach about seasonal cycles and awarded Wheeler, of River Pines Elementary, and Muñoz, of Milstead Middle School, the coveted Iron Teacher "Silver Apple" award.

But while Wheeler and Muñoz took home the grand prize, they weren't the only teachers who brought their A game to the competition. More than 200 other elementary science teachers — all former participants in the Rice Elementary Model Science Lab program — competed in the Iron Teacher event, in which they were asked to design a student lesson on a random science concept using their wits, a limited number of self-provided supplies and RSST's "secret ingredient."

Working in teams of two or three, they also formulated powerful lessons using

watched via webcam. At the end of the allotted time, the teams presented their lessons to a panel of three judges: Mary McHale, laboratory coordinator at Rice University; Lori Notor from ConocoPhillips; and Duranne Walker, Houston Independent School District West Region Teacher of the Year.

"The creativity displayed in the competition was really impressive," said Wallace Dominey, director of RSST. "Though only one team walked away with the Silver Apple, all of the teams can be proud of their achievements as exemplary science teachers."

—C.J. THOMPSON

Associate Director, School Science and  
Technology  
Center for Education

## Bringing The World a Bit Closer Together

Ever wondered about engagement traditions in India? Or what process Thailand uses to appoint heads of state? Whether you're interested in learning more about the cultural differences and similarities between countries or are looking for an international learning resource, a new Web site created by Rice University's Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) can help.

Called Valuable International Perspectives (VIP) and available through the OISS home page at <http://oiss.rice.edu>, the Web site features a compilation of brief essays written by Rice international students and scholars. Each year's essays cover a particular topic, beginning with the 2008 essays that discuss how heads of state are selected in 11 different countries. The 2009 briefs cover wedding customs and traditions in countries ranging from Kazakhstan to Nepal.

To suggest a topic for the VIP resource, please contact Adria Baker at [abaker@rice.edu](mailto:abaker@rice.edu).

—ADRIA L. BAKER

Executive Director  
Office of International Students and Scholars



## HISD Students Win Rice University Essay Contest

If you had President Barack Obama's ear, which national issue would you ask him to address? That's the question 133 inner-city high school students answered as part of an essay-writing contest sponsored by the university's Houston Enriches Rice Education (HERE) Project.

Four entrants won cash prizes ranging from \$500 to \$1,000, and another six received honorable mentions along with free Princeton Review classes at Rice over the summer. All 10 winners were honored during a May 23 luncheon at Farnsworth Pavilion in the Ley Student Center.

First-place winner Ana Cuello wrote about the devastation experienced by U.S.-born children whose parents are deported for entering the United States without proper documentation. In an impassioned plea, she reminded President Obama of his own words: "For we know that our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness."

Second-place winner Grisel Sanchez wrote about underfunded inner city schools, and third-place co-winner Martha Juarez of Reagan High School also expressed her concern about this issue. Juarez shared third place with Rebecca Villarreal, also from Reagan, and both students won \$500.

This is the second year that the HERE Project has sponsored an essay-writing contest. Limited to 11 inner-city high schools, the contest drew 133 participants this year — more than five times the number of students who entered last year's contest.

—JAN WEST

Assistant Director  
Multicultural Community Relations

## Student Research Examines Social Issues in Local Communities

A program organized by Rice's Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality received excellent marks from civic leaders for engaging Rice students in research that may benefit local communities.

The Seminar and Practicum in Community-Engaged Research completed its first year by partnering eight undergraduates with seven nonprofit organizations serving Texans. During the fall 2008 semester, the students collaborated with these nonprofits to design research projects that would benefit both the agencies and the communities they serve. The undergraduates then executed those research projects in spring 2009.

Cohen, Houston City Council Member Sue Lovell, Houston Independent School District Superintendent Abe Saavedra and the Rice University Police Department. The Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Political Caucus also invited students from the Seminar and Practicum to present their work.

The Seminar and Practicum are open to juniors and seniors of all majors. The Seminar



**RECEPTION HONORS RESEARCH:** Caroline Holcombe '09 talks with guests about her study on school dropout rates in Houston.

"With the support of excellent teachers, staff and field supervisors, the students in the program's first year learned life lessons about collaborative work and produced projects that will have a lasting impact," said Rosemary Hennessy, director of the center.

The students presented their research last spring during a reception at the Brochstein Pavilion that brought together representatives of the nonprofit organizations; the general public; and Rice students, staff and faculty.

After the reception, the students' projects earned wide-ranging local and state recognition. Members of the seven collaborating nonprofit organizations requested copies of the students' work, as did state Rep. Ellen

is the classroom component and offers students an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the issues involved in engaged research and to explore the dynamics of the production of knowledge. The Practicum is the field component, in which students perform their community-based research.

To learn more about the Seminar and Practicum, contact Brian Riedel, projects coordinator for the center, at [riedelbs@rice.edu](mailto:riedelbs@rice.edu) or 713-348-2162.

—BRIAN RIEDEL

Projects Coordinator  
Center for the Study of Women,  
Gender and Sexuality



## RDA Awards Grants in Support of Houston's Built Environment

The Rice Design Alliance (RDA) has awarded a total of \$10,350 to the winners of its 10th-annual grant program, *Initiatives for Houston*. The grant program focuses on projects that support Houston's built environment.

The three winning proposals were submitted by Darren Precely and Sharon Adams of Texas Southern University; Tracy Catherine Bremer of Rice University; and Jessica Lauren Barnett, Rafael Morales, Maria Gabriela Oran and Allison Parrott of the University of Houston's Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture.

Precely and Adams were awarded \$5,000 for "Documenting Decaying Dreams," which

section into usable space that will improve the city.

In "Engulfed by Industry: Rethinking the Industrial-Residential Interface," Bremer proposes to explore residential pockets that interface with surrounding industrial infrastructure and how that unplanned industrial sprawl affects the quality of life in those neighborhoods. Funded by a \$2,350 RDA award, Bremer's study will explore the possibilities of altering and improving the boundary condition in hopes of uncovering a solution that would ultimately improve the urban landscape and thus the living conditions of these neighborhoods and their inhabitants.

The Rice Design Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of architecture, urban design and the built environment in the Houston region through

educational programs, the publication of *Cite: The Architecture and Design Review of Houston*, and active programs to initiate physical improvements. Membership is open to the public. More information is available online at <http://rda.rice.edu> or by calling 713-348-4876.

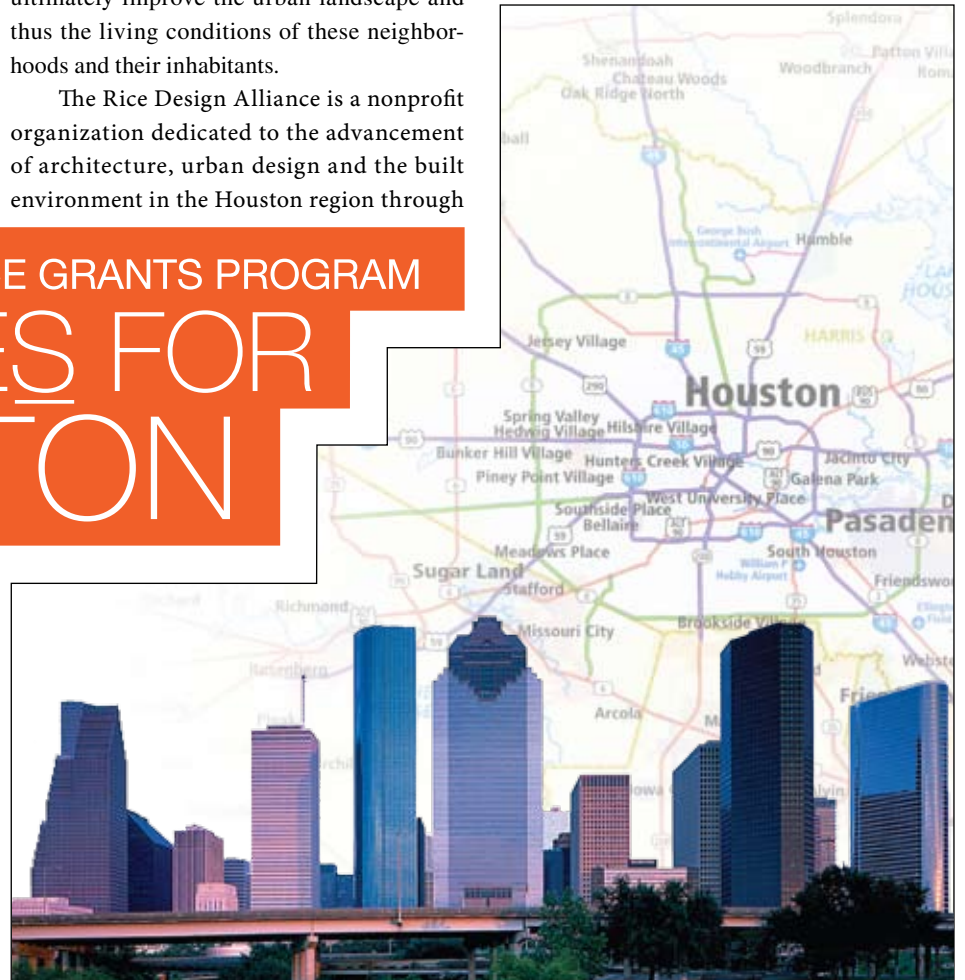
—CARRIE STALLWITZ

Media Relations  
Rice Design Alliance

# RICE DESIGN ALLIANCE GRANTS PROGRAM INITIATIVES FOR HOUSTON 2009

suggests taking an inventory of the existing historic housing stock in the neighborhoods surrounding Texas Southern University and the University of Houston in the city's Third Ward. By recording the historic land uses and the associated sense of place, Precely and Adams hope to document the historical vernacular conditions of the neighborhoods, which they fear will soon be destroyed by the expansion of the university campuses and by MetroRail installations and the accompanying development along the rail line.

Barnett, Morales, Oran and Parrott's proposal, "Mad to be Saved: Finding Purpose for the Residual Space of the Highway Intersection," was awarded \$3,000. The student team plans to study the intersection of Loop 610 and Interstate 10 and propose a design intervention that will transform the current residual space surrounding the inter-



**LOOKING FOR BENEFICIAL BOUNDARIES:** In "Engulfed by Industry: Rethinking the Industrial-Residential Interface," Bremer proposes to explore residential pockets that interface with surrounding industrial infrastructure and how that unplanned industrial sprawl affects the quality of life in those neighborhoods.



## From Bottle Caps to Puppet Heads, Rice Gallery's Upcoming Exhibits Are Tops

The drapey metal fabric that will soon caress the walls of Rice Gallery may be capturing the world's attention now, but it started life a decade ago as a lowly bag of garbage that escaped every person's notice but one.

That one was El Anatsui, a Ghanaian sculptor and teacher who rescued a discarded bag of aluminum screw-top liquor-bottle caps from the African bush, took it to his studio, and months later began experimenting with the caps by cutting, folding and bending the aluminum into flat swatches of color and texture. He stitched the pieces together with copper wire, and the resulting textiles sported glittering metallic surfaces and patterns reminiscent of kente cloth, the emblematic fabric of Ghana.

The work Anatsui is creating for Rice Gallery will be a descendant of that early piece and has cousins in The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the British Museum in London and the Pompidou Center in Paris, among other museums. On display from Nov. 5 to Dec. 13, Anatsui's elegant exhibit will be preceded by a show of an entirely different kind.

Los Angeles artist Wayne White's "Big Llectric Fan to Keep Me Cool While I Sleep" will pay homage to country-music icon George Jones with a "roadside attraction; a museum relic of a lost world; and a big, weird toy still in its box," White said. The idea for the exhibit, which will be on view from Sept. 10 to Oct. 18, came to White while he was visiting Houston in this June's near record-breaking heat. A Tennessee native and country-music devotee, White found that he could not get the lyrics to Jones' song "I'm Ragged But I'm Right" out of his head.

"I kept thinking of hot Houston nights before air conditioning and the young



**WACKY AND SHIMMERING:** This fall the Rice Gallery will present two installations, a wacky one by Wayne White and another featuring a suspended sculpture by African artist El Anatsui.



"Pee-wee's Playhouse," White will combine his passions for puppetry and painting in a room-sized work of art that will feature a likeness of Jones in the form of a 15-foot puppet head sleeping on its side, with a peephole through which visitors may glimpse a view of the singer's interior world.

White will give a brief gallery talk about his work prior to the exhibition's opening, as will Anatsui. Admission to Rice Gallery is always free, and more information is available online at <http://ricegallery.org> or by calling 713-348-6069.

—ANNA FORET

Outreach Coordinator  
Rice Gallery

George Jones in this city — full of crazy artistic passion and making music history," White said. "I wanted to create something organic to Houston, and this was perfect."

Best known as the Emmy-winning creator and performer of many of the puppet characters in the late-80s television show

**"I KEPT THINKING OF HOT HOUSTON NIGHTS BEFORE AIR CONDITIONING AND THE YOUNG GEORGE JONES IN THIS CITY — FULL OF CRAZY ARTISTIC PASSION AND MAKING MUSIC HISTORY," WHITE SAID. "I WANTED TO CREATE SOMETHING ORGANIC TO HOUSTON, AND THIS WAS PERFECT."**

—WAYNE WHITE



## Houston Mayor Honors Rice Student for Volunteer Work

For someone who's not a teacher, Tony Castilleja spends an enormous amount of time in front of a classroom. As one of the founders of Designing with Rice Engineers for Achievement through Mentorship (DREAM), the recent Rice graduate has dedicated hours to helping students in Houston's urban high schools understand and meet the expectations of their future colleges — and he recently was honored at the Mayor's Volunteer Houston Awards dinner because of it.

Castilleja, alumna Daniela Rimer, and Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science Brent Houchens founded DREAM two years ago. Today, the program teams Rice undergrads with approximately 120 students from Austin High School, Chavez High School and KIPP Academy in Houston to help prepare them for college studies in science, math and engineering.

"To be able to connect with those students and see a part of me in them, when I

was at that level, and at the same time have them see themselves in me — that's very gratifying," said Castilleja, who also served as president of the Rice University Chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) before he graduated in May 2009.

Through his involvement with SHPE, Castilleja helped organize the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Conference, which returned to Houston in October 2008 after an absence of many years and drew engineers from all over the

**"TO BE ABLE TO CONNECT WITH THOSE STUDENTS AND SEE A PART OF ME IN THEM, WHEN I WAS AT THAT LEVEL, AND AT THE SAME TIME HAVE THEM SEE THEMSELVES IN ME — THAT'S VERY GRATIFYING."**

—TONY CASTILLEJA

nation. Its success was important in showing the world how well Houston had weathered Hurricane Ike just weeks before.

"I've really striven to give back to Houston," Castilleja said. "SHPE gave me the opportunity to promote education, college and engineering to a lot of students in our community."

—MIKE WILLIAMS

Rice News staff



**GIVING BACK TO HOUSTON:** Tony Castijella wants other students from his community to follow in his footsteps at Rice University.

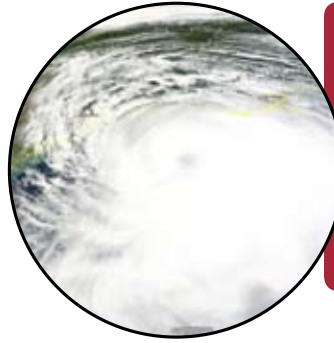
## Leadership in Crisis: Guiding Houston through the Storm

On March 12, exactly six months after Hurricane Ike battered southeast Texas, Leadership Rice brought Houston Mayor Bill White and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett to campus to discuss the challenges they faced and the strategies they used in guiding Houston through the storm.

Both White and Emmett '71 explained that crises make leadership easier by unifying people in support of clear and compelling goals.

"I find that the crisis-mode atmosphere can bring people together, regardless of political party," White said. "The fact is that we are a region. We are a community. We work together to solve problems."

At the same time, crises bring logistical challenges that turn routine impediments into substantial obstacles. For this reason, Emmett emphasized the importance of advance planning, commending White for spurring comprehensive disaster preparedness plans following Hurricane Rita in 2005.



**"I FIND THAT THE CRISIS-MODE ATMOSPHERE CAN BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL PARTY. THE FACT IS THAT WE ARE A REGION. WE ARE A COMMUNITY. WE WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE PROBLEMS."**

—MAYOR BILL WHITE

"When Hurricane Ike hit, it wasn't a question of 'What are we going to do?'" Emmett said. "It was a question of 'How are we going to implement the plan we have prepared?'"

Co-sponsored by Houston Enriches Rice Education, the free public forum was moderated by sociology professor and Leadership Rice Faculty Associate Michael Lindsay and was attended by a large audience of students and community members. Leadership Rice arranged for several of the students who attended the event to meet Emmett and his wife, Gwen, for dinner afterward.

As part of Rice's Center for Civic Engagement, Leadership Rice is committed to developing civic-minded leaders for

whom the practice of leadership represents a means of enhancing their communities. In addition to connecting students with distinguished leaders, the organization offers a set of academic classes focused on the theory and practice of leadership; provides funding to bring students' ideas to reality through the Envision Grant program; and administers the Summer Mentorship Experience, through which students are paired with recognized leaders in different types of organizations around the country and the world.

—BRAD SMITH

Director  
Leadership Rice



**THE IKE AFTERMATH:** Mayor Bill White, Judge Ed Emmett and Rice Associate Professor Michael Lindsay discuss leadership issues in the wake of the storm.



## High School Students Explore Bioengineering at Rice

Think of it as a head start for high school students interested in learning about bioengineering.

That's what students from a South Texas magnet school and from Houston's inner city got at Rice this summer, thanks to the Rice Summer Academy for High School Students. Managed by Rice University's Institute of Biosciences and Bioengineering (IBB), the program employs a mentorship-teaching model in which graduate and postdoctoral students are paired with high school students in campus labs.

The annual two-week program is funded by The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and the Hamill Foundation and allows students to participate in bioengineering research. Jennifer West, the chair of the Department of Bioengineering and the Isabel C. Cameron Professor of Bioengineering at Rice, leads the initiative.

Thirty-two participants enrolled in the program this summer, including pupils from the Science Academy of South Texas (SAST), Milby High School, YES College Preparatory School and Harmony Science Academy.

The students toured the Texas Medical Center, including visits to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and the Baylor College of Medicine "Brain Lab," which does neuroimaging of brain activity in humans. At Rice, the students attended demonstrations on microscopy, physiology, chemistry and robotics and participated in workshops on how to apply to universities and how to create scientific posters and give presentations.

They also carried out research in science and engineering labs across campus, including the bioengineering lab of Assistant Professor Junghae Suh.

"I couldn't imagine being inside a bioengineering lab doing real work on an actual project," said Olivia Gonzalez, a 17-year-old student entering her senior year at SAST. "It's pretty cool to be part of this. I now understand a lot more about what bioengineering is."

—DWIGHT DANIELS

Science Writer  
George R. Brown School of Engineering

## Rice Undergraduates Honored for Service to the Community

Eric Silberman '09 had been tutoring Rice staff members in English as a second language since his sophomore year, but he began to understand the true worth of his efforts over lunch a year later.

"I was in my junior year, and I met a custodian who told me that she had swum across the Rio Grande in search of a new life and had since become a U.S. citizen," he said. "After hearing that story, I saw a tremendous need to help people like her."

Silberman continued to tutor, and expanded his volunteering efforts to medical translation at Ben Taub Hospital, where he served doctors and patients six hours a week. For his efforts, he was one of five graduating seniors to receive Rice's Alan Grob Prize. Named for a civil-rights activist and professor who taught at the university

Roque Sanchez '09, who served as a translator for the El Salvador Engineers Without Borders team for four years. Sanchez also is a founding member of the Rice team that is participating in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon, a competition between 20 college and university teams to design, build and operate the most attractive and energy-efficient solar-powered home. The Rice Solar Decathlon team's entry is Ze-Row, an 800-square-foot sustainable house that will be showcased along with the other 19 entries in October 2009 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Gislaine Williams '09, who re-established Rice for Peace and organized awareness events about rights for low-income workers and refugees in the Houston area.

For Silberman, making an impact in the community is a continuing effort.

"I was honored to receive



**NAMED FOR A CIVIL-RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND PROFESSOR WHO TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY FOR 40 YEARS, THE ALAN GROB PRIZE IS GIVEN ANNUALLY TO RICE UNDERGRADUATES WHO, THROUGH SERVICE TO THE HOUSTON COMMUNITY, DEMONSTRATE DEVOTION TO THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF THE ECONOMICALLY AND CULTURALLY DISADVANTAGED.**

for 40 years, the prize is given annually to Rice undergraduates who, through service to the Houston community, demonstrate devotion to the needs and interests of the economically and culturally disadvantaged. In addition to Silberman, the following students won the Alan Grob Prize this year:

Tony Castilleja '09, who co-founded Designing with Rice Engineers for Achievement through Mentorship (DREAM) in 2007. A mentoring and tutoring program for underprivileged high school students, DREAM won a \$20,000 grant from Bank of America this year.

Katherine Gomer '09, who advocated for the victims of anti-Semitism. Because of her efforts, Holocaust Remembrance Day is now an annual event through Rice's Boniuk Center.

the award, but I felt like I hadn't earned it yet," he said. "I feel there is still so much to be done, and I still have a responsibility to continue helping others who don't have the resources or advantages I am privileged to enjoy."

This fall, Silberman will teach math and science at Houston's YES College Preparatory Schools, a charter school system dedicated to advancing the number of low-income students who graduate from a four-year institution.

—STACY C. CERVANTES

Department Coordinator  
Public Affairs

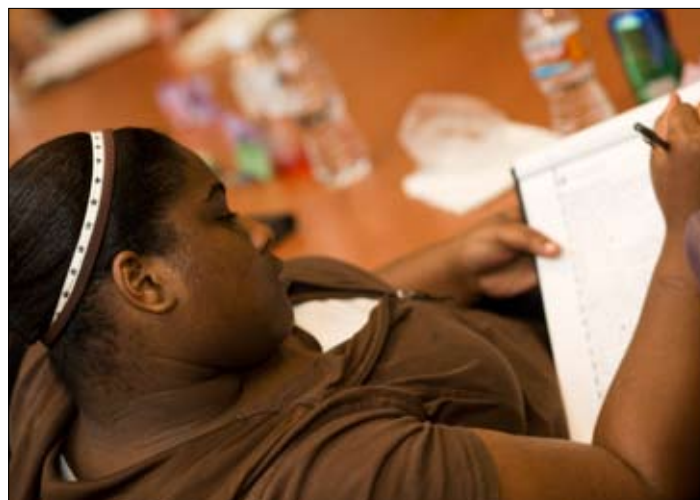
## Local High School Students Discover the True Power of Math

You know math can help you divide and subtract, but did you know it also could help you tie knots, make art, design toys and race cars?

That was the message behind Rice University's Summer Math Days (SMD) program, in which 20 local high school students were encouraged to look at math in new, more engaging ways.

"The idea," said SMD director and Rice math professor Béatrice M. Rivière, "is to introduce students to a variety of interesting topics in mathematics, like mathematics in art, mathematics in car racing, mathematical modeling in biology, mathematical analysis, parallel computing, knots and toys."

Sponsored by Rice's departments of



**THE MAGIC OF MATHEMATICS:** Local high school students learn that mathematics can be an engaging topic.

math and of computational and applied mathematics, the three-day program was open to Houston Independent School District students entering grades 10 through 12 and featured lectures and workshops by the departments' faculty members and graduate students.

"Some of the presentations were mind-bogglingly amazing," said Ahmad Qamar, a junior from Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions. "The message we got is that math is a way of thinking rather than simply a dry or rote subject matter."

—PATRICK KURP

Freelance Writer





## Scholarship *Continued from Page 1*

Houston and Rice communities, and the department received multiple suggestions about scholarships that respondents were either involved with or had benefited from.

“Especially during this economic downturn, it is important to help students find financial support to attend college,” said MCR director David Medina. “We hope this scholar-

ship listing will become an invaluable resource for students pursuing a college education.”

If you know of a scholarship that’s available to local students and isn’t listed on the MCR scholarship site, please contact Medina at [dmedina@rice.edu](mailto:dmedina@rice.edu).

—LEXIE LAWRYNOVICZ

Staff Assistant  
Public Affairs

## Civic Challenges *Continued from Page 1*



**THE ART OF COLLABORATION:** Rice students Kristi Day and Caleb Brown work together to find a solution for the MFAH project.

edge to help solve issues facing the Houston community,” said CCE Executive Director Stephanie Post. “Not only do students have the opportunity to solve real-world problems, they understand the impact they can make in their own backyard.”

For the four undergraduates who worked with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, that meant studying the storage needs of five three-dimensional artifacts from the museum’s permanent collection and creating a custom archival solution for the largest piece, La Sordidez, a sculpture created by Antonio Berni in 1964. Each team member also led a study of one of the smaller pieces.

“Through this program, we exposed students to course instruction and vigorous research methodology,” said Rice bioengineering professor Maria Oden, one of the faculty advisers for “Engineering Design for Art and Artifact Conservation,” the MFAH research and design project. “We also incorporated design work and

other practical applications to better understand the civic issues and long-term needs of our community partner.”

Students benefited from the multidisciplinary nature of each team, which allowed them to learn from each other and explore the design challenges they faced from several different perspectives, according to Rice junior Caleb Brown, who worked on the MFAH project.

“Collaboration among team members, as well as among the MFAH and other external organizations, has provided us with a broad, practical learning experience,” he said. “It’s rewarding to know we have contributed to solving an important civic issue.”

Visit the team’s Web site at <http://edaac.rice.edu> for a showcase of the fellows’ completed work.

—LAURA B. KLEIN

Center for Civic Engagement  
Associate Director, Professional Communication

## Rice At Large Wins Award

Rice at Large won a Special Award in the Newsletters/Tabloids/Newspapers (8-1/2 x 11 inches or smaller) category from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District IV.

Produced by the Office of Public Affairs, the quarterly publication showcases the extensive and varied community outreach and engagement programs that are carried out in and by many different divisions of Rice University. Rice at Large is sent to more than 2,000 members of the Houston community, including educators, community and political leaders, and others with whom the university would like to engage.

Senior Graphic Designer Dean Mackey designs the publication, and David D. Medina, director of Multicultural Community Relations (MCR), edits the newsletter, which runs eight to 12 pages. Others who contribute to the production of Rice at Large are Jan West, assistant director of MCR; Stacy Cervantes, department coordinator; Lexie Lawrynovicz, staff assistant; and Tracey Rhoades, editorial director.





# AT LARGE



**INSIDE THIS EDITION:** Building Bridges: (from left) Rice students Ariel Handler and Robyn Moscovitz along with Devika Subramanian, professor of computer science at Rice, work to improve warehouse distribution efficiency at Houston's Medical Bridges.

David D. Medina, Director, Multicultural Community Relations, Office of Public Affairs



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